

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02941 011142Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T AMMAN 2941

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, XF, JO, IS, US
SUBJECT: MIDEAST GROUP - KING HUSSEIN AND U.S. IDEAS ON WEST
BANK AND GAZA

REF: A) STATE 69649, B) STATE 77944, C) STATE 083012

1. HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM LEAVE, I AM STRUCK BY THE
POSITIVE CHARACTER OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, (REF. A) AND
THE SECRETARY'S BRIDFING ON BEGIN VISIT (REF. B) WHICH KING
HUSSEIN RECEIVED DURING MY ABSENCE. I BELIEVE THE EFFECT OF THESE
TWO MESSAGES IN DEMONSTRATING U.S. DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE
TO PUSH ON A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT WILL HAVE A GOOD EFFECT ON
KING HUSSEIN.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, I HAVE NOTED INCREASING REFERENCE IN
THE PRESS (REFTEL C) IN RECENT DAYS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR IDEAS
ON THE WEST BANK ISSUE IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT WHICH WE HAVE
NOT YET DISCUSSED WITH THE KING (FIVE YEAR INTERIM REGIME
FOLLOWED BY A PLEBISCITE REGARDING CHOICE OF KIND OF ASSOCIATION
WITH ISRAEL, JORDAN OR JOINT ADMINISTRATION DEMILITARIZED
CHARACTER OF WEST BANK, ETC.) LATEST SUCH INSTANCE
WAS ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS ON SUBJECT DURING
LATIN AMERICAN TOUR.

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3. THE PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S MESSAGES DO NOT
CONTAIN ANY MENTION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE ISSUES, ALTHOUGH
BOTH MESSAGES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY STIRRED THE KING'S INTEREST IN
THE SUBJECT. SPECIFICALLY, THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER INTRODUCED
FORMALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME THE CONCEPT NOT ONLY OF WEST BANK
BUT ALSO OF GAZA BEING INCLUDED IN REGIONS WE ASSUME
WOULD BE CONSIDERED COULD BE LINKED WITH JORDAN. (THIS WAS

ALWAYS ASSUMED TO BE THE CASE ALTHOUGH LITTLE THOUGHT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO IT AND ITS MENTION FORMALLY IN PRESIDENT'S LETTER ADDS A MORE FORMAL CHARACTER TO OUR (AND EGYPT'S) THINKING IN ITS REGARD).

4. SECONDLY, GIVEN OUR MENTION IN SECRETARY'S BRIEFING IN REF. B THAT U.S. PRESENTED EXPLORATORY IDEAS ON WEST BANK AND GAZA DURING BEGIN VISIT, KING WILL CERTAINLY WISH US TO FILL HIM IN ON SUBSTANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES IN MORE THAN VAGUE AND GENERAL WAY WITH KING BEFORE, EVEN DURING ATHERTON'S RECENT VISIT. GIVEN POSSIBLE CENTRAL ROLE ENVISAGED FOR JORDAN IN REGARD TO THESE ISSUES AND IN LIGHT OF THE GROWING U.S. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THEM, I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO START SHARING OUR IDEAS WITH THE KING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I WILL BE ASKING TO SEE KING HUSSEIN IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND WOULD LIKE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE ME WITH APPROPRIATE GENERAL TALKING POINTS ON OUR SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS ON WEST BANK AND GAZA PRIOR TO MY MEETING WITH HIM. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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